



Cornell University
ILR School

Cornell University ILR School
DigitalCommons@ILR

The Ladies' Garment Worker, Volume 9 (1918)

The Ladies' Garment Worker

3-1-1918

The Ladies' Garment Worker, Volume 9, Issue 3

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU)

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/lgw_vol9

Thank you for downloading an article from DigitalCommons@ILR.

Support this valuable resource today!

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Ladies' Garment Worker at DigitalCommons@ILR. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Ladies' Garment Worker, Volume 9 (1918) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@ILR. For more information, please contact catherwood-dig@cornell.edu.

If you have a disability and are having trouble accessing information on this website or need materials in an alternate format, contact web-accessibility@cornell.edu for assistance.

The Ladies' Garment Worker, Volume 9, Issue 3

Description

First published in April 1910, *The Ladies' Garment Worker* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) through 1918. The journal appeared monthly and included sections in English, Italian, and Yiddish. *The Ladies' Garment Worker* was discontinued at the end of 1918 and replaced in January of 1919 by the new weekly journal of the ILGWU, *Justice*.

Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, The Ladies' Garment Worker, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States, English, Italian, Yiddish, Jewish

Publisher

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU)



The LADIES' GARMENT WORKER



Contents

Editorial: Our Next Convention in Boston
—A Noteworthy Exemption for Our Industry—A Memorable Day of Mercy.

Big Locals a Hindrance to Democracy—
The Editor.

The American Federation of Labor and the
Jewish Trade Unions—A. Rosebury.

American Labor Movement in Present
Crisis—A. R.

General Executive Board in Session and
Official Reports.

Local News and Events.

The Apple (a Story)—A. Reisen.

International Ladies' Garment
Workers' Union
31 Union Square, New York

Published Monthly Price 5 cents

Directory of Local Unions

LOCAL UNION

OFFICE ADDRESS

1. New York Cloak Operators	238 Fourth Ave., New York City
2. Philadelphia Cloakmakers	244 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
3. New York Piece Tailors	9 W. 21st St., New York City
4. Baltimore Cloakmakers	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
5. New Jersey Embroiderers	144 Bergenline Ave., Union Hill, N. J.
6. New York Embroiderers	133 2nd Ave., New York City
7. Boston Raincoat Makers	38 Causeway St., Boston, Mass.
8. San Francisco Ladies' Garment Workers	362—19th Ave.
9. New York Cloak and Suit Tailors	228 Second Ave., New York City
10. New York Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters	7 W. 21st St., New York City
11. Brownsville, N. Y., Cloakmakers	219 Sackman St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
12. Boston Cloak Pressers	751 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
13. Montreal, Canada, Cloakmakers	37 Prince Arthur, E. Montreal, Canada
14. Toronto, Canada, Cloakmakers	194 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada
15. Philadelphia Waistmakers	40 N. 9th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
16. St. Louis Cloak Cutters	Fraternal Building, St. Louis, Mo.
17. New York Reefermakers	117 Second Ave., New York City
18. Chicago Cloak and Suit Pressers	1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.
19. Montreal, Canada, Cloak Cutters	1178 Cadieux, Montreal, Canada
20. New York Waterproof Garment Workers	20 E. 13th St., New York City
21. Newark, N. J., Cloak and Suitmakers	103 Montgomery St., Newark, N. J.
22. New Haven Conn., Ladies' Garment Workers	83 Hollock St., New Haven, Conn.
23. New York Skirtmakers	231 E. 14th St., New York City
24. Boston Skirt and Dressmakers' Union	751 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
25. New York Waist and Dressmakers	16 W. 21st St., New York City
26. Cleveland Ladies' Garment Workers	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
27. Cleveland Skirt Makers	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
28. Seattle, Wash., Ladies' Garment Workers	153—15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.
29. Cleveland Cloak Finishers' Union	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
30. Cincinnati Ladies' Garment Cutters	411 Elm St., Cincinnati, Ohio
31. Ladies' Garment Workers	721 N. Market St., Louisville, Ky.
32. Winnipeg Ladies' Garment Workers	Labor Temple, Winnipeg, Man.
33. Bridgeport Corset Workers	414 Warner Building, Bridgeport, Conn.
34. Bridgeport Corset Cutters	414 Warner Building, Bridgeport, Conn.
35. New York Pressers	228 Second Ave., New York City
36. Boston Ladies' Tailors	751 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
37. Cleveland Cloak Pressers' Union	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
39. New Haven Corset Cutters	393 Columbus Ave., New Haven, Conn.

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER)



*Named shoes are frequently made
in Non-Union factories*

Do Not Buy Any Shoe

*no matter what its name, unless it bears a plain and
readable impression of this UNION STAMP*

*All shoes without the UNION STAMP
are always Non-Union*

Do not accept any excuse for absence of the UNION STAMP
BOOT and SHOE WORKERS' UNION

TWO-FORTY-SIX SUMMER STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

JOHN F. TOBIN, President

CHAS. L. BAINE, Sec'y Treas.

THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Vol. IX

MARCH, 1918

No. 3

OUR NEXT CONVENTION IN BOSTON

Every convention of a great international union has an importance of its own. Our own conventions in recent years have been very important, each in its own way. Our next convention, the fourteenth in the history of our International, will likewise have its special significance.

The convention will be held at a time when the world is in the pangs of birth. All civilized countries seem to be travailing in pain—a new order is slowly and painfully being evolved from the destruction and confusion of the present system. Capitalism has practically broken down. It has proved incompetent, because too selfish, to conduct the great national industries in a great world crisis. Instead of helping to surmount the crisis, it has proved a hindrance, and governments had to step in, push aside private enterprise in the largest and most important industries, and take them under their own control.

In taking over these industries, the governments of the countries where private enterprise had ruled unchecked perceived somewhat reluctantly that national welfare depends on the working people; that to preserve their integrity and save themselves from threatening disaster they must live in peace with the organized workers and improve their conditions of labor. This change in the conception of the worthy part performed by labor in the preservation of Society is taking place even in our own great country. It is now entirely up to the workers themselves whether this change should be further evolved and completed.

The spirit of the time is such as to make every worker thoughtful and conscious of the aim and direction of the labor movement. It is certain that our fourteenth convention, which will begin its sessions in Boston on Monday, May 20, will similarly derive inspiration from the stirring times in which we live. The most important questions before the convention should be regarded in this light: namely, that labor has risen in the scale and has become an estimable factor in our national life. The workers in our industry are also in a position to effect a better future for themselves, if they will only realize that to do so they must be completely organized, presenting a solid front.

* * *

In the seventeen months that have elapsed since the last convention in Philadelphia many notable events have occurred. In the first few months we conducted a series of organizing campaigns in various parts of the coun-

try to draw the unorganized into line. Our General Executive Board has endeavored, as far as possible, to carry out the resolution of the Philadelphia convention, and has spared neither money nor effort to ameliorate the condition of our people in a number of cities and branches of industry.

In New York almost all of our locals, with our co-operation and support, won increases in wages, in most cases, by negotiation in conference. The cloakmakers, waist and dressmakers, children's dressmakers, white-goods workers, ladies' tailors, raincoat makers, kimono and house-dress workers—in all these trades the workers have improved and strengthened their economic position.

In cities out of New York our local unions have put on record similar achievements. In Cincinnati and Toronto we achieved notable victories. In Philadelphia the cloak-makers and waist-makers improved their position. In Chicago we had a great moral victory in spite of a systematic persecution and prosecution conducted by a powerful trio—the employers, the police and injunction judges: Our Local No. 100, consisting of skirt, waist, dress, kimono, and white-goods workers, renewed its existence and has become a factor in the industry, although officially we did not win the strike. In Montreal we conducted an up-hill struggle and achieved a partial victory—partial because the strike lasted the entire season. In other cities—Baltimore, Cleveland, St. Louis and elsewhere—we have kept up our agitation, calling the unorganized to unity and organization. In Boston we put our cloakmakers' locals through a purifying process and placed the organization in a salutary atmosphere. Several months ago the petticoat makers of that city won a strike and joined the Waistmakers' Union, Local No. 49, in large number.

During the interval circumstances occurred requiring exceptionally drastic measures resorted to for the first time in the history of our International Union. We mean the trouble with the cloak operators of New York as a result of which the General Executive Board felt in duty bound to reorganize the Cloak Operators' Union, Local No. 1, root and branch. For a long time the canker grew, causing pain and unrest in the ranks of the cloakmakers. Finally the General Executive Board performed the necessary operation. The cankerous growth was cut out by the roots, and the new Local No. 1 grafted in the place of the old one exhibits every sign of healthy, normal growth and is full of future promise.

The elected delegates will come to the convention conscious of the fact that the organization has difficult problems to solve for the near future, but is free from internal disorder, and that it enjoys a high prestige, not only in our industry, but in the public opinion of the country at large.

In accordance with a decision of the General Executive Board, President Schlesinger will visit all the locals in course of the next two months, with a view to studying at first hand their associated life, their condition and their future prospects. Subsequently he will embody his impressions in the report of the General Executive Board to the convention, together with appropriate and needful recommendations looking to the promotion of their welfare and the welfare of the organization as a whole.

As already alluded to, our organization is confronted with certain problems of far-reaching importance, and the fourteenth convention will be called upon to find their true solution. It is, therefore, desirable that our locals should take them into serious consideration, so that the delegates to be elected by them shall be properly informed upon the questions to be dealt with in order to discuss them with cool deliberation, as it is essential that these questions shall be decided with justice and fairness and for the benefit of all concerned.

One of these questions is the introduction of week work and a minimum wage in the cloak trade and other trades, as far as possible and practicable. An agitation for week work among the cloakmakers of New York has been in progress for a considerable time. In the last few months the question has been dealt with editorially in the *Ladies' Garment Worker*. In those editorial articles President Schlesinger discussed the subject from every angle and with profound conviction. They who read the articles have felt that week work is an urgent and pressing reform; that week work will place the trade on a normal, sound basis, will deliver the piece workers from a slavish yoke they have fastened upon themselves and remedy many evils in the shops. Just as the abolition of home work in 1910 brought rest and freedom to the workers and their families, so the abolition of piece work will bring ease of mind and less anxiety. Week work will mean almost an industrial revolution and a new, healthier atmosphere within the organization. Many cloak operators and finishers are already working week work. The convention will have to decide the question once for all, and it is possible that the next fall season will see the ideal of week work fully realized.

Another important point is the ever-recurrent question of organization, which absorbs much time at every convention. In the last few years there have been many economic disturbances in our industries and consequent poor seasons for the workers. At the present time, however, all our people are working full time. This shows that the condition of the industry is becoming normal again. It is certain that in the next two years there will be a shortage of labor in the ladies' garment trades all over the country. Such circumstances are highly favorable for organizing work on a large scale. Under such circumstances the American workers in a number of trades have extended their ranks.

This vexed question has been worrying us for a number of years. So long ago as in 1910, at the convention then also held in Boston, the close connection between *successful organizing work and ample financial resources* had been definitely established; and we have since been hammering away at the point that if our International should have to solicit donations in every protracted strike, it would be more advisable to have no such strikes.

As soon as organizing work is begun in any new field we must be prepared to meet all the cost incidental to every strike and be prepared to wage strikes with stubborn employers, perhaps for weeks and months. Thus the question of organization, from beginning to end, resolves itself into a question of finances. Let us hope that the fourteenth convention in Boston will make a serious attempt to solve the organization question.

A NOTEWORTHY EXEMPTION FOR OUR INDUSTRY

Last month our International Union succeeded in securing for the ladies' garment industry an exemption which attracted wide attention. This was, namely, the permission which our President Schlesinger, with the assistance of President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, received from Dr. Garfield, the Federal Fuel Administrator, exempting the ladies' garment industry from the operation of the heatless and lightless order and thus enabling our people to work on the proscribed Mondays.

Following is the correspondence between President Schlesinger and Dr. H. Garfield:

FROM PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER TO DR. GARFIELD

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union respectfully requests that the order of the Fuel Administration dated January 17th, 1918, be amended either by wholly excepting all manufacturing plants engaged exclusively in the production of women's apparel from the operation of said order with reference to the remaining Mondays between January 28th and March 25th, 1918, or at least by substituting Saturdays for such Mondays, and in support of its request the Union submits the following facts and reasons:

The women's wear industry in the United States employs about two hundred and fifty thousand workers, almost all of whom are located within the section of the country affected by the order of the Fuel Administrator. Of this number more than half are members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The principal branches of the industry are the cloak and suit industry, which employs about half of the total number of workers, the waist and dress, underwear, and similar industries.

The center of the industry is the City of New York, which employs about one hundred thousand workers in approximately forty-five hundred establishments.

Owing to variation of styles and other special conditions, the women's garment industry is highly seasonal. Repeated and numerous investigations, private and governmental, disclose that the workers in this industry have employment on the average of only six months in the year. The period of employment is comprised within two working seasons, the spring season which begins about the first day of February and lasts about ten or twelve weeks, and the fall season which begins about the month of September and has a similar duration. Between seasons about thirty thousand women's garment workers in the City of New York are totally idle, while the remainder work part time, some times on an average of one or two days a week. During the periods of idleness the workers mostly contract debts, and in order to exist at all, they must earn enough in the short busy periods not only to maintain themselves and their families during such periods, but also to make up for the shortage in the preceding period of idleness and to provide to some extent for the succeeding period of idleness.

The order of the Fuel Administrator works particular hardship on the workers in our industry and their families for the following reasons:

1. The nine remaining workless Mondays designated in the order of the Fuel Administrator come exactly within the period of the spring season, i. e., at a time when every day of work and wages counts most heavily for the workers. The nine enforced holidays will represent an absolute and total loss to the workers. They can not make up for the loss of such days on the theory that the spring season would be lengthened thereby, because no working period in the industry can be extended beyond the ordinary term on account of the seasonal character of the

work. They can not expect to be paid for the idle Mondays because a majority of the employees are piece workers and are paid only for work actually done, and with very few and insignificant exceptions, the employers in the industry have refused to pay even their week workers for such Mondays.

The preceding period of idleness in the industry has been exceptionally long and severe and the majority of the workers are in a condition of acute destitution. They can not physically stand a substantial curtailment of their earnings during the short season now beginning.

2. Another special reason why the order of the Fuel Administrator works particular hardship on the workers in the industry is that the great majority of them are Jews, many of whom observe Saturday as their day of Sabbath. These work ordinarily five days a week, and with the elimination of Mondays they will be reduced to only four work-days just at the time when they would have the opportunity to work. Such a condition threatens to cripple the industry, aside from inflicting untold hardship and privation upon the workers.

3. In an effort to overcome the handicap upon the industry it is quite likely that a large number of manufacturers will keep their establishments working overtime during the remaining five days of the week, including Saturdays.

The workers in the women's garment industry have fought many years for a regulated and reasonable work-day in their industry, and have finally succeeded in establishing a work-week of forty-nine or fifty hours and the observation of Saturdays as holidays. If the manufacturers in our industry be permitted to go back to long work-days during the period covered by the order of the Fuel Administrator, the great danger is that the working standards in the industry, established with so much struggle and sacrifice, will be demoralized and destroyed forever.

As far as the object of fuel conservation is concerned, it would be totally defeated because in working additional hours at night, at least the same amount of coal would be consumed for heat and power and additional coal for light.

4. The fuel consumed in clothing factories is but a small item as compared with fuel used in other manufacturing plants. In the first instance large sections of the workers employed in such establishments, such as cutters, finishers, trimmers, button sewers, etc., work by hand, and the sewing machine consumes comparatively little power. The difference between the coal required in such establishments for the prevention of injury to the plant from freezing and the amount of coal required for the operation of the plant is so small, and the saving so insignificant, that it does not justify the extraordinary hardship which the Monday closings inflict upon the workers in the industry.

The reason why the Union suggests the substitution of Saturdays as an alternative to the total exemption of the industry is because, as above indicated, many employees in the industry do not work on Saturdays, while those who do, work only half a day and consequently would lose only half their wages.

Respectfully submitted,

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION,

Benj. Schlesinger, President.

DR. GARFIELD'S ANSWER FOLLOWS

February 7, 1918.

Mr. Benjamin Schlesinger, President International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,
Dear Mr. Schlesinger:

In the light of the facts presented to me, I am satisfied that injustice will be done the Ladies' Garment Workers if they are required to lay off on Mondays.

The State Fuel Administrators are, therefore, being instructed to allow coal to be furnished where necessary to heat and light the lofts and work shops occupied by the members of the Union of the Ladies' Garment Workers.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) H. Garfield,

UNITED STATES FUEL ADMINISTRATOR.

It will be remembered that Dr. Garfield's order was strictly enforced because it was a war order. The wisdom of the order was much questioned by manufacturers and persons fully supporting the war policy of the Government. Naturally many people were thrilled with wonder at the exemption granted to the ladies' garment industry upon the request of our union. Some of our own manufacturers suddenly opened their eyes to the potent influence of our International Union. Heretofore they stubbornly refused to believe in the potency of our influence, even in the face of facts.

If this should seem mysterious to some of our employers, we should like to enlighten them on the point. Our wide influence is due to the business methods we pursue in dealing with the manufacturers. In the eight years during which our Union has become prominent in the labor movement and industrial centers our representatives have invariably employed reason and common sense in all undertakings of historical import for our Union. There was hardly a case in our industrial struggles and hostile attacks upon us in which we failed to emerge justified and vindicated. Public opinion, exclusive of the manufacturers and their backers, has in such cases always sympathized with and ranged itself on the side of our Union.

No wonder, therefore, that our President Schlesinger has succeeded in gaining access to the federal authorities and convincing Dr. Garfield of the urgency of an exemption for the workers of our industry. The order was revoked after the exemption had been in force one Monday. But this by no means detracts from the importance of the exceptional privilege granted to the industry through the offices of our Union.

A MEMORABLE DAY OF MERCY

In recent years there have been exceptional days in the life of our International Union deserving to be set apart as red-letter days in our history. But February 22, 1918, will be recorded in the annals of our union as a memorable day of particular significance. It was a day on which our membership thought not of its own personal interest, but of the urgent need of others; a day on which they felt with their whole heart and soul for the war sufferers; in which they expressed their pity and sympathy not only in work or thought, but in the exertion of brain and muscle in a practical way. They worked that day and donated their entire earnings to the needy victims of the war.

At this writing we do not know as yet the result of their offerings. The heatless and lightless days affected this noble endeavor in no small degree, particularly so far as the manufacturers were concerned. In fact, through the heatless order the entire proposition had been in doubt, and it is possible that the sum total will not measure up to the original expectation. But after making all deductions the donation is bound to be a big one, probably the biggest contributed by any organization for this great purpose.

(Continued on second half of next page.)

Big Locals a Hindrance to Democracy

From the February Yiddish Edition of the Ladies' Garment Worker

By the Editor

The purpose of this series of articles is to analyze our present form of organization and certain phases of the inner life of our locals. It is plain that certain vexing evils from which we suffer are caused directly by the enormous size of some of our local unions. However great our efforts to guard and protect the members' interest, many details must elude our vigilance and suffer neglect.

It is not our purpose to lay the blame for these evils at anyone's door personally. The system has grown spontaneously. It was forced on us by circumstances beyond our control, after two great historic strikes and victories.

We had not expected such a tremendous upheaval, such a general response to our call for organization. When the strikes of the waistmakers in 1909-1910 and of the cloakmakers in 1910 were settled, and tens of thousands of these workers returned to the shops, transformed by the settlements into union shops, our officers and leaders of that time were in the position of one, suddenly entrusted with a colossal business concern, who feels like being in the woods, not knowing how to begin shaping its course. The first absorb-

ing thought was to hold the mass of workers together in the organization. Every other consideration was thrown into the shade.

Centralization and Rule of the Few

Even the most sagacious, intelligent and experienced men and women are limited in their power of foresight. Our leading spirits of that time may have had the presentiment that big locals would make for centralization, placing the control of the union in the hands of a very few. But there were so many problems pressing for solution that the leaders had no time to think how big locals were likely to work out in practice. All minds were then concentrated on consolidating the union, assure its existence and render it proof against the attacks of the employers and other enemies.

It was hoped that the centralization inherent in big locals might act as a protection. There was, at all events, no other solution of the difficulty. It could not then occur to anyone that locals of thousands of members would retard the spiritual development of the masses. No one could foresee that this form of organization would render it impossible to bear in mind the spiritual

Washington's Birthday is a widely recognized holiday in all parts of the United States, and this year the streets of New York evinced the customary holiday aspect. But between six and seven P. M. large masses of people were seen streaming from the factory districts in the direction of the Eastside. They were the sympathetic ladies' garment workers. The writer of these lines observed many of them wending their way homewards in the glittering snow. Young men and girls, week workers, who were entitled to pay though not working the day; who could have spent the day in some pleasant company, walked from work in their usual unassuming manner. Their inward souls, throbbing with pity and sympathy, shone out of their expressive eyes. They all seemed pleased in the consciousness that they had performed a great duty and noble deed on that day.

And very truly they have by this service to suffering and agonized humanity won a rare repute. Truly they are workers of whom our country might feel proud. By their devoted action they placed our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union on a high pedestal of fame and prestige.

needs of every member, and that after seven years the mass of the membership would remain stationary—indifferent to the union; union men and women by compulsion.

Mere Members or Human Beings?

There is a saying, "You cannot see the wood for the trees." This is very true of our locals. Their membership is so large that the idea of the human beings, which the membership represents, is lost. The members are dealt with as a mass and not as individual persons, without whose action and co-operation there can be no organization and no democracy. The result is that instead of such locals being organizations of workers whose hearts and souls are permeated with the spirit and ideals of the union—unity, solidarity, brotherhood—most of our people have formed the notion that the business agent is the union, that the manager is the union, that the executive board is the union, that the joint board is the union, that the union office is the union; in short, that the union is not themselves, but something apart. For a labor union such a state of affairs is unnatural.

Thus it is easy to understand why we are only just opening our eyes to the lack of an essential, which is more important than the machinery of the office—an essential that would save the offices of the locals nine-tenths of the effort and energy and money. We have the outward form of organization, but we lack the spirit, that spirit now reflected in a comparatively few active members, but which should be reflected in all the members.

Forbidding, Chilly Atmosphere

All students of the psychology and character of our people have observed that we have a large measure of enthusiasm which animates us on certain occasions. In strenuous agitations before and during strikes, and whenever we feel that we have been or are being dealt with unjustly we are capable of manifesting greater enthusiasm than the workers of other races and nationalities. This enthusiasm should have permeated our members with the spirit

of unwavering unity and a desire to be active in the interest of the organization. But no such effect has been produced.

The ideal of labor—emancipation from wage slavery—that is visibly coming to fruition even in our time, has not achieved its present stage of progress without immense sacrifice. The labor movement, like the ancient religions, has had its heroes and martyrs. It is, therefore, capable of inspiring courage and prompting to noble effort.

Trade unionism will be in a fair way of achieving its aim when every member of a local union will feel the urge to enlist in its service, whether as a shop chairman, a business agent, a local officer, a committee man, an organizer, etc. The number of such people in our union is limited because our big locals present no opportunity for getting hold of every member individually, to bring out his or her talent, and help them to attain self-expression.

Every one of our big locals may be likened to a house, beautiful and attractive without but formal and chilling within. It has costly furniture and decorations, but this is offset by an official, forbidding atmosphere. In vain the host tries to infuse life and enthusiasm into his guests; his dry, formal words fall on irresponsible, deaf ears. After this experience how can the guests be expected to act otherwise than shun this cold, formal house with all its unreal officiality.

A Danger Not to Be Overlooked

Only now, after some eight years of active life, we have discovered that our people lack the knowledge of trade union principles, and we want to rectify the shortcoming by unity centers and educational institutions. We should not, however, delude ourselves into believing that lectures and courses, though good and useful, will beget the new spirit and interest which we want to see manifested, if we shall retain our present form of organization and let the big locals remain as they are. There lurks a danger, which may not be seen by all. Those, however, who have been long familiar with the labor

movement know it from sad experience. It is that the more intelligent members who taste from the tree of general knowledge and education discard the trade and the union and seek better opportunities in life. But this is not our aim. Our aim is to increase the number of thoroughgoing union men and competent and reliable union leaders who, fired with the zeal for our ideals, should serve the cause of our movement. It is not our aim to educate men and women who should abandon our cause and go into the service of private interests.

Leaders Must Rise from the Ranks

Let us, by all means, educate and enlighten our members. At the same time we must bring them up as true, devoted union men and women. But the latter is a process which we cannot carry out in our present big locals. To attempt this with any measure of success we must reorganize our union into smaller locals where every member can be easily reached and where he or she can find an opportunity for self-expression. For self-expression, however imperfect, develops the mind. In our present locals the mass of the members individually can find no expression and therefore the great majority is indifferent.

In no country and in no industry have trade organizations assumed such an unnatural form of organization as the locals of our International Union. Take the trade unions of Great Britain (and Great Britain is generally recognized as the cradle of trade unionism and labor organization). In certain large industries in England there are powerful labor unions and federations which have reached the highest degree of development. They are steadfast in principles. Their stability and permanence was assured half a century ago in spite of legal and social disabilities. For the last twenty-five years or so they have been organized politically as well as economically, and they are represented in the British Parliament through the powerful and influential Labor Party. They possess enormous funds and they are rich in qualities that riches cannot buy—unity, harmony, so-

lidarity and capable leadership. For several decades they have had the most experienced leaders that could be desired; yet these leaders did not come from other classes in society. They did not attend universities, where, as Ingersol says, "pebbles are polished and diamonds are dimmed." They do not hail from the professions, being neither doctors nor lawyers. They have risen from the ranks. They worked in the factories and mines.

Such men as the late James Keir Hardie, John Burns, Arthur Henderson and many others rise before the mental vision. The British labor leaders have furnished cabinet ministers for the British Government. A persistent opinion has been current within the last few months that in the coming reconstruction after the war or even sooner, the mantle of the British premiership will fall upon Arthur Henderson; and Arthur Henderson received his training and experience in the ranks of the horny-handed toilers.

Many of the British trade unions at various times have been in the throes of great industrial upheavals. But defeat and failure have not broken their spirit of unity in spite of the system of strike-breaking recognized and well organized there under the respectable name of "Free Labor Association." The workers of the principal national industries, except perhaps the tailors, are organized in extensive national unions and industrially federated. But those big national unions are composed of small groups. Seven members constitute the smallest organized group or local, and there is no necessity for a provision in the constitution prohibiting locals or branches of more than several hundred members.

Democracy Must Assure Individual Expression

The idea and practice of democracy are not things to juggle with in the British trade unions; they are real, living facts. Democracy there means that every individual member is assured of his full rights of expressing his opinions and personal wishes, and it is instinctively understood that when a local consists of more than several

hundred members individual rights of expression cannot be assured. Only among the Jewish tailors and industries employing immigrants is there a tendency to be grouped in centralized independent unions, and for that reason these union hardly ever acquire stability. The least crisis upsets their equilibrium. As the organized Jewish workers are drawn principally from Eastern Europe, their conception of democracy is not so pronounced as that of the natives.

Develop Ordinarily Intelligent Element

One cannot expect the speedy realization of democratic perfection in our locals; but small locals would be a good beginning. Small locals would call forth personal interest, while many intelligent members hold aloof from our present big locals. In our huge organizations big men and big sensations are called for, and these members

do not consider themselves big enough. But in smaller locals there is room for the ordinarily intelligent element to develop and become genuine leaders, while now this element is consumed with regret at having no chance of self-expression.

Some people object that the splitting up of a local of 10,000 members into twenty or so locals would cause serious difficulties. "Where would these locals meet? Will it not be an expensive proposition? Will it not be almost impossible to watch over so many small organizations?"

To this we answer: All these are petty details that can be met. First of all it is necessary that our people shall be convinced of the urgent necessity of this reform and be fired with enthusiasm for the idea. The rest will take its natural course. But we shall return to the subject in the next issue.

The Success of Our Organizing Campaigns

By AB. BAROFF

I have no doubt that at the next convention of our International Union which will be held in Boston beginning May 20, 1918, the usual large number of resolutions will be submitted, calling for the organization of all the ladies' garment workers in every part of the country.

From past conventions we know that no resolution of this kind is ever disapproved by the convention. On the contrary, all such motions are carried unanimously.

The delegates to our conventions know that it is the function of the International Union to organize the workers. They know the importance of this task and therefore adopt these resolutions with enthusiasm.

Our delegates, however, do not clearly perceive the difficulties we encounter in the effort of carrying out our organizing campaigns. They do not know the amount of money required to assure the success of the work. They are not familiar with the element confronting us. They cannot know all this. They only know one

thing—that it is our duty to organize the workers. Therefore any resolution pertaining to organization is carried with enthusiasm, and the General Executive Board, including the President and Secretary, receive a mandate from the convention to give effect to all the adopted resolutions.

What happens next?

The newly elected officers, knowing the great importance of their mission and the responsibility these resolutions impose on them, are determined to comply implicitly with the wishes of the convention and immediately set to work, some times even without due preparation, for the great and difficult task.

Our industries have two short seasons, which begin at the same time throughout the country, and organizing work can be done with a certain degree of success only during the season. The workers are then in the shops working long hours, at top speed, and receiving miserable pay for their arduous toil. Then, when organizers come and enlighten them as

to the urgency of uniting together, their ears are open to the message that unity means their salvation.

During the slack season the workers feel discouraged and depressed, laden with care as to where to borrow money to maintain their wives and children and tide them over the hard weeks or months. At such times they have not the minds to listen to the call of the union representative. The luckier workers, who chance to remain at work in the slack season, are afraid to risk their small earnings, and dodge the organizer. They do not want to incur the displeasure of the employer, who, not being subject to any control, might discharge them. This would mean for them weeks and perhaps months of starvation. Therefore it is plainly impossible to start organizing campaigns in the slack season.

As already said, the seasons in our industries begin in all the cities at the same time; and as they are mostly short seasons they afford little time for conducting successful organizing campaigns. But in view of the great mandate entrusted to the elected officers by the convention, the officers, in their desire to carry it into effect, often elaborate organizing plans of far-reaching scope beyond our financial strength and organizing ability. Under such circumstances not all the campaigns can be crowned with success.

In illustration of the foregoing remarks I shall cite, for the benefit of the delegates to the next convention who will have before them the question of organizing campaigns, a fact which will prove the correctness of my statement.

At our last convention in Philadelphia hundreds of resolutions were adopted, most of which had reference to the question of organization.

When the newly elected officers assembled at the first meeting after the convention and took up the long list of resolutions calling for organizing campaigns, it became clear that if the International officers were to attempt embarking on such a comprehensive mission as assigned them by the delegates they would have to extend their organizing activities to all branches of

trade in various industrial centers.

President Schlesinger therefore submitted a plan of undertaking eleven organizing campaigns in different cities. I have great respect for our general president, and while I have not underestimated his inexhaustible energies and devotion to the work, it was clear to me that to carry out this excellent plan we stood in need of larger financial means and an additional staff of organizers. I thought that to carry out the task successfully required almost superhuman powers. Everywhere the attention of the general officers was in demand and everywhere funds were needed. As soon as we plunged into these campaigns we found that we had undertaken much more than we could accomplish with the men and means at our disposal. The pressure of the demand for organization brought to bear on us at the convention was so great that in seeking help from many of our locals we, in our enthusiasm, over-estimated our strength, and for that reason the results were not such as we had desired.

It is clearly our task to bring the unorganized into line for two reasons.

First, because it is the function of our International Union to spread the idea of unity by which the workers may protect their earnings and interests.

Second, to maintain the improvements won in the organized cities and trades it behooves us to swing into line the unorganized workers, so as to prevent their unchecked competition from being a menace to the higher standards of the organized workers. Therefore the delegates are justified in pressing for energetic organizing campaigns. But they must bear in mind first that the elected officers entrusted with this work will do their duty. Adopting resolutions is not the main thing. If they wish the officers to fulfill their function of tackling the organizing problem with success something more than voting for resolutions is required. This brings us to the most important question of raising the per capita tax, which we shall discuss in the next article.

The American Federation of Labor and The Jewish Trade Unions

An Earnest, Impartial and Honest Contribution to an Intricate Question

By A. ROSEBURY

Some people in discussing an intricate problem of conflicting feelings and interests, themselves darken counsel and then complain that they cannot see.

One might say the same concerning the six-pointed controversy between the Central Federated Union of New York and the United Hebrew Trades; the United Garment Workers and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and the false statements current in some circles that the American Federation of Labor is antagonistic to the trade unions of Jewish workers. They who are gifted with a special inclination to see creeping black shadows everywhere, imagine this question as a sort of bullfight, and are alarmed at the dark visions conjured up by their own minds.

Now, there happens along an impartial labor man of old standing, like myself, with no personal axe to grind; one who is not directly connected with the Federation of Labor, the Hebrew Trades or any of the aforesaid contending parties, yet one who is regarding the entire controversy coolly and dispassionately from the standpoint of trade union principle and organization—and what I see is a thick fog created by those of the United Hebrew Trades themselves; and in a fog the imagination is bound to be very active and mistake shadow for reality.

The fact is that our friends of the Hebrew Trades until recently have not had a clear conception of the resolution adopted at the Buffalo convention of the American Federation of Labor. Furthermore, they do not seem to understand the question in its true bearing on trade union organization. Was it because of fear for the existence of the Hebrew Trades, or because our friends of the Amalgamated have been adding fuel to the fire, while there arose in the interval the question of the Capmakers and Millinery workers? The fact is—they had confused and hazy notions on the subject, and they should be grateful to President Schlesinger of our International Union, who cleared the foggy atmosphere

and saved the United Hebrew Trades from a perilous situation of tragi-comedy. Had the United Hebrew Trades agreed to the terms of the Central Federated Union, involving the admission to its councils of delegates from the United Garment Workers, they would have placed their existence in jeopardy.

Unfortunately the Yiddish press has not presented the facts of the case clearly from the true viewpoint of organization and trade union discipline. Both sides have distorted the issue. Those of the Central Federated Union have brought into the controversy such outside and irrelevant matters as the People's Council and Workmen's Council and tried at the Buffalo convention to raise a bugbear of some imaginary persons intending to form a Federation of Labor in opposition to the existing body. Meddlesome and misinformed writers in the Yiddish press, on the other hand, have much exaggerated the so-called Jewish question and by insinuation and suggestion indirectly alarmed a certain class of readers that the Central Federated Union and the American labor movement were hostile to the Jewish workers as such. In the meantime our friends of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and their sympathizers have kept pouring oil on the flames and, letting loose their imagination, indulged in some such false conclusion as this: "Well, it doesn't matter, anyhow. When the worst comes to the worst, the Jewish Labor movement might stand on its own feet; it has no need of the solidarity and moral support of the American Federation of Labor."

But this is sheer nonsense. Only irresponsible writers and platform orators, whose pen or tongue runs away with their common sense, are capable of such suppositions. The "Jewish Labor Movement" is not a race movement, nor yet a Jewish national movement. It might be that, if the fates permit, in the Holy Land, but it cannot be and must not be that in America. In America, it is no more than a Jewish

language movement. Here Jewish workers must all unite and fraternize and be in hearty solidarity with the American organized workers. First, because their organized ranks are not formed exclusively of Jewish workers, but partly also of Italian, American, Russian, Polish, French, German and other workers. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union admits to membership even negroes; and in many shops workers of all these various nationalities often work side by side. If the Jewish Workers should lose their senses and turn the question into a race question, and imagine that they could afford to be at loggerheads with the American workers, then, they might expect, in some localities, to incur hatred and persecution similar to that which many of them endured in their countries of origin.

In the spring of 1917 terrible riots—fire and death against the negroes—broke out in East St. Louis. What was the main cause of that savage and inhuman outbreak? It was the blending of the race question with the labor question, and it proved that under certain circumstances human beings turn into wild beasts. To trifle with feelings is to play with fire.

Now, what is there in the question under discussion (and in every human question) other than a question of feeling? It is ridiculous to think that the fight of the Central Federated Union against the United Hebrew Trades is a race question, or a fight against Jewish workers. The fight is against the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. It began soon after the Amalgamated had been organized and there will be no peace until the dispute between the United Garment Workers and Amalgamated Clothing Workers is satisfactorily settled. How can it be a fight directed against the Jewish workers, in view of the fact that there are Jewish workers in the ranks of the United Garment Workers? Then there are numerous Jewish members of the American Federation of Labor in various cities all over the country.

Let us therefore concentrate attention on the gist of the question and examine the resolution adopted at the Buffalo convention of the American Federation of Labor and the recent action of the United Hebrew Trades from this angle. Let us first of all understand the facts of the case and

not be carried away by our feelings against our reason.

Resolution No. 120 adopted at the Buffalo convention reads as follows: (The italics are mine.)

Whereas, a serious condition exists in the clothing industry in Greater New York caused by what is known as the *Amalgamated Clothing Workers, who seceded from the United Garment Workers of America with the intent of destroying that recognized organization; and*

Whereas, The United Hebrew Trades, a body consisting of various local unions of different trades, and which is not chartered by the American Federation of Labor, renders all possible support to the seceders and is, therefore, antagonistic.

(In the last "whereas" Delegate Brindell, its mover, brought in a bogeyman in the shape of the People's Council and Workmen's Council and tried to alarm the delegates into believing that the purpose of the above-said organizations was to supplant the American Federation of Labor—an allegation which was false and misleading.—A. R.)

Therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the thirty-seventh Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor direct all international unions whose local unions are represented in the United Hebrew Trades, to order all such local unions to withdraw from that body, and in case such local unions refuse to withdraw, to *reorganize them under the banner of the American labor movement.* (The last underscored phrase is rather hazy, for are they not already enrolled in the American labor movement?—Ed.)

Note that in this resolution there is not even a hint about the United Hebrew Trades being required to admit into its counsels delegates from the United Garment Workers. True, Mr. Brindell of the C. F. U. wished to add some such clause as this to the resolution. Delegate Benj. Schlesinger, however, strenuously opposed it and the committee dropped it. Furthermore, Brindell subsequently wished to withdraw the entire resolution, because the delegates favoring the Hebrew Trades had made it quite clear that the entire basis on which it rested was unfounded. The convention practically accepted the statement that the United Hebrew Trades was *not antagonistic*, but on the contrary, *loyal to the American Federation of Labor.* According to the convention report (page 381) the convention accepted the view "that it might bring a great hardship and injury

if the United Hebrew Trades were dissolved by the process employed by the resolution No. 120."

Thus, the basic part of the resolution being unfounded, its entire superstructure—the decision "to direct all international unions," etc.—falls to the ground. If the purpose of the resolution was, as James Holland of the New York State Federation of Labor expressed it, that "something should be done by the convention to bring peace and harmony in New York City," then, instead of the decision bringing peace and harmony, it is rather calculated to bring bitter war. No, brothers of the American Federation of Labor; this is not the way to bring peace and harmony. There is a much better way, namely to bring together the contending parties; and the only man who is fit and able to accomplish this feat is President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor.

Looking at the matter, as we are doing here, with cold reason, without passion, prejudice or partiality, but from a purely trade union standpoint, one cannot conceive that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor should commit such an error of judgment as to force the international unions, in their turn to force their local unions, to withdraw from the Hebrew Trades, after the charges against this body were admitted to be unfounded—a slur on its reputation.

Of course it is possible that the Executive Council of the Federation might take that mistaken stand; but the international unions are within their right not to comply with it. It seems to me that the Federation by its constitution cannot interfere in the internal affairs of the international unions or deprive them of their rightful local autonomy. The Federation can neither compel them to affiliate their membership with any central body nor compel them to keep out of a special language body which has definitely declared its loyalty to the Federation. All that the Executive Council can do is to try moral persuasion—call upon the international unions to act in a certain way, but the international unions have a right to disagree with the advice.

The Executive Council might submit a report to the next convention; but the

Council will not be logical, consistent or practical, to recommend the expulsion of the non-complying unions. The effect of this, if enforced, would be to fan the fires of the brotherly dispute rather than to subdue and extinguish them.

Possibly the next convention of the American Federation of Labor will decide to compel the international unions to act in the sense of that or a similar resolution. But before the convention will decide upon such a course the international unions concerned will have an opportunity to defend their position and convince the delegates that theirs is the correct attitude, while the possible attitude of the Federation is *not in accord with the spirit of trade unionism*. It is difficult to conceive that the coming convention will persistently refuse to listen to reason and act upon a *mistaken conception of discipline*. It is easy to imagine that the delegates of the United Garment Workers and of the Central Federated Union will urge such action; but it is inconceivable that a great convention of a mighty national movement will be so narrow-minded as to decide upon a solution of this question by such methods. It is impossible to believe that the Executive Council of the Federation will back such methods, and that President Gompers, who has a thorough and intimate knowledge of the entire situation, will depart from his life-long belief in complete local autonomy and swing the weight of his great influence in the scale of the intolerant party in this business.

If well-reasoned protests and logical contentions should fail after all and the elements bent on war to the knife should happen to carry the day, then, of course, the international unions will have to submit to the rule of the majority; they will have no other alternative. They must not allow themselves to be expelled from the American labor movement. But in that case, the pugnacious elements must not imagine that they will thereby succeed in suppressing the natural instinct of the Jewish organized workers to group themselves into some Yiddish-speaking central body for the purpose of helping to organize the unorganized Jewish workers. President Gompers knows that when you drive out such an instinct through the door, it will come back through the window.

Now what should be the constructive attitude of the international unions concerned at the coming convention of the American Federation of Labor? Namely this: "We are decidedly opposed to dual unionism; but in this question between the United Garment Workers and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers there has arisen an unusual situation. In politics and government an unsuccessful revolt is condemned and punished, but a successful revolt is called a revolution and is eventually recognized. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers practically accomplished a revolution. Its purpose had been not to destroy the United Garment Workers, as alleged in Brindell's resolution, but to organize the disorganized tailors whom the United Garment Workers for years neglected to organize, or employed clumsy methods of organization. The Amalgamated Union has organized them in their tens of thousands. This is noticeable wherever there is a flourishing tailoring industry.

"It is therefore the duty of the American labor movement to give recognition to these organized workers, to reach out to them a brotherly hand and take them into the fold of the great family of American trade unions. They have deserved this in view of their great achievement. They have, properly speaking, accomplished that which the Federation wishes the workers of every trade to bring about—they have organized and won union shops and union conditions of labor."

The next convention of the American Federation of Labor ought to decide that these two rival bodies—the United Garment Workers and Amalgamated Clothing Workers—should join forces. That would be a peace with honor for the Federation and a great gain for the labor movement. And the Amalgamated Clothing Workers must loyally submit to such a true trade union proposition, because this is the only way out of a tangled situation in which it finds itself outlawed and separated from the labor movement.

In this connection it should be conceded that the attitude of the Amalgamated union to the Federation was illogical and improper. It seemed as if the Amalgamated sought to carry on a fight against Samuel Gompers and the Federation of Labor. How ridiculous? Has the Amalgamated

expected Samuel Gompers to withdraw his support from the United Garment Workers—an affiliated body with the Federation—and give it to the Amalgamated, which is, after all, a dual union? Has the Amalgamated Union expected to win the public opinion of the American labor movement by discharging literary pop-guns at Samuel Gompers and the Federation of Labor? How much better it would have been to maintain a conciliatory attitude and defend its action by proper evidence?

But let bygones be bygones. In the next three months the Amalgamated can help to free itself from its condition of separate existence and help the international unions arrayed on its side to advance its cause at the coming convention of the American Federation of Labor. The labor movement is too sacred a cause to permit such methods.

I have tried to discuss this controversy in an earnest, impartial and honest manner. Had the United Hebrew Trades adopted the proposition of the Central Federated Union and admitted the locals of the United Garment Workers, the struggle in the clothing trade would have been aggravated. The sword would have fallen on the stone. By its refusal to comply with a demand that was not part of the resolution of the Buffalo convention a way has now been opened for the ventilation of the whole question in a new light, and possible settlement.

Had not our President Schlesinger clarified the situation from this standpoint at the meeting of the United Hebrew Trades, that body, out of fear, might have committed an unpardonable error. It is sometimes necessary to save a person from himself. For "Nothing is so bad, but what thinking makes it so."

JUDGMENT

By John Hendrick Bangs

I never knew a man so good
But I could find flaws, if I would.
I never knew a man so bad
But that some virtue rare he had.
And hence it is I cannot find
A method certain in my mind
By which to judge my brother's ways
In terms of blame, in lines of praise:
And, therefore, feel no special call
To judge my fellow men at all.

American Labor Movement in Present Crisis

By A. R.

EMPLOYING CLASS ACCOUNTABLE FOR LABOR UNREST

The most important news item of the past month was the report of the Mediation Commission appointed some time ago by President Wilson to probe into the great labor unrest in the country, particularly into the causes of the extensive strikes in the industries of the West. The report rests the entire blame on the employers and profiteers.

The commission consists of William B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor, chairman; John H. Walker, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor; E. P. Marsh, president of the Washington State Federation of Labor, and U. Z. Reed and J. L. Spangler representing the employers.

Important as this news item was to the average reader of the daily press, it is an old story to the organized workers. The omissions and commissions of the captains of industry and their inhuman treatment of their employees have been for years common knowledge to the advanced and well-informed section of the American public. The situation was far worse twenty-five or thirty years ago when the workers generally were poorly organized. Cruelties and inhuman deeds then perpetrated on laboring men and women were deemed natural occurrences in the public mind, and neither the public nor the government interfered or sympathized with the wronged and oppressed.

Even some three years ago when the well-known Commission on Industrial Relations conducted its far-reaching investigation into the causes of the great unrest, and the government published its scathing report in several volumes, the revelations and recommendations of the commission left the government and Congress unmoved. No attempt was made to ameliorate conditions. Those recommendations were, in a certain sense, similar to the proposals of the present report, but they fell on deaf ears. The industrial policy of the country was then still fashioned after the old individualism, which tacitly looked on

while profiteers were exploiting and grinding down the faces of the poor, the weak and helpless. The government then held fast to the principle of "let it alone" and did not interfere in the industrial wars between capital and labor. States sometimes did interfere—on the side of capital. The federal government could only investigate, and it was up to Congress to take legislative action. But since Congress hardly represented or sympathized with labor, attempts to remedy the situation by enacting laws were frustrated by the representatives and agents of the employers' interests. Where any attempt at legislation succeeded, the law enacted was in most cases killed by the Supreme Court on the pretext of its being contrary to the spirit of the constitution.

Within the last few years under the pressure of the war the aforesaid individualistic principle of "let it alone" has been dying by inches in Europe. In America, too, it is now in its death agony. Only the Supreme Court is still sustaining it by anti-labor decisions, looking backward and thinking the thoughts of a past age.

But the public and an ever-growing section of the press are fast readjusting their views in accord with the new circumstances and changed feelings.

It has dawned on the foremost rulers of democratic countries that without the goodwill of labor the nation's interests cannot be advanced. And reasonable industrial leaders and advanced thinkers have opened their eyes to another fact, namely that, while the workers ask as a reward for their labor just sufficient to tide them over the ever rising cost of living, the profiteers have set their energies on amassing treasures out of the rivers of blood and tears flowing, as never before, in both hemispheres.

For this reason the report of the President's Mediation Commission has called forth so much attention; not because it has brought to light something new in the industrial life of the country, but because the report has touched a responsive chord in the thoughts and sentiments of the times.

Briefly the recommendations of the commission are in substance as follows:

"The elimination to the utmost practical extent of all profiteering during the period of the war. . . .

"Some form of collective relationship between management and men is indispensable. The recognition of this principle by the government should form an accepted part of the labor policy of the nation. . . .

"Instead of waiting for adjustment after grievances come to the surface, there is needed the establishment of continuous administrative machinery for the disposition of industrial issues and the avoidance of an atmosphere of contention and the waste of disturbances.

"The eight-hour day is an established policy of the country; experience has proved the justification of the principle also in war time. Provision must of course be made for longer hours in case of emergencies. Labor will readily meet this requirement if its misuse is guarded against by appropriate overtime payments."

The commission also recommends the establishment of a "unified direction of the labor administration of the United States for the period of the war. . . . A single-headed administration with full power to determine and establish the necessary administrative structure." Then "when assured of sound labor conditions and effective means for the just redress of grievances, labor should surrender all practices which tend to restrict maximum efficiency. . . . Labor will eagerly devote its all, if only it be treated with confidence and understanding, subject neither to indulgence nor neglect, but dealt with as a part of the citizenship of the state."

All this to us is nothing new. Trade unions have been working for and urging such methods since many years. It is only new and startling to those whose eyes have been closed to ugly facts in industry.

"IF IT'S YOURS, THEN TAKE IT."

Chas. M. Schwab of the steel trust is ready for the social revolution. So it appears from his speech at the dinner of the Old Boys on January 24; and he is also ready, willy-nilly, to surrender his millions and become a manual laborer. He does not like the prospect, of course, but he is prepared for the inevitable.

Mr. Schwab is the president of the Bethlehem Steel Company of Pittsburgh, which employs some 20,000 workers. These laborers have never had an easy time, as the system of work is twelve hours a day for seven days a week and the wages of most of them do not exceed \$2.50 a day. He gives the impression of a man caught in the act, who hazards the excuse: "If it is yours, then take it."

Schwab's prediction that the time is coming when the workers will dominate the world surprised the Socialists and spread consternation among the more thoughtful capitalists and those who uphold the present system. One may imagine how they felt when they read words that heretofore had been uttered only by Socialists. They must have thought: "If the lions tremble what should the wolves do?"

No wonder, then, that their spokesmen in the press had a sort of reproach for Schwab for revealing his fear of the future and being the first millionaire to dig the grave of the capitalist system. He said among other things:

"We are facing another social situation, which we should be keenly alive to, a situation which is going to come at the close of the war, a 'social renaissance' of the whole world. Call it socialism, social revolution, Bolshevism, or what you will, it is a leveling process, and means that the workman without property, who labors with his hands, is going to be the man who will dominate the world. It is going to be a great hardship to the owners of property, but like all revolutionary movements it will probably work good. The sooner we realize this the better it will be for America. We must not fight this movement, but we must educate it. We must go among the people of the working classes and mingle with them, and learn their feelings and thoughts."

Speaking of the effects of the social revolution, Mr. Schwab said: "No doubt at first the changes will be carried to extremes and the pendulum of change will swing too far and great hardships will ensue, but in a very short time the pendulum will right itself and the world will go jogging on the same way as before, with the United States as leader as long as her virility, which makes her the greatest country in the world, lasts.

"The great effect of socialism would be the destruction of all aristocracies except the one of merit. The aristocracy of birth will cease to exist and the aristocracy of wealth will be no more. The coming aristocracy is to be composed of men who have done something for their country and the world at large, men who have worked for the good of mankind. Don't think I am anxious to give away my wealth and work with my hands. Indeed, there are few of us who like to do what is good for them. But we will find that we must eat the pill, sweet or bitter."

This talk moved Congressman Meyer London to comment: "When the princes of finance and the lords of industry prophesy the victory of the workers and of Socialism, I become suspicious. I look around to see whether there is anything lying loose that these fellows haven't grabbed yet."

HIGH COST OF LIVING EXCEEDS WAGE RAISES

Some manufacturers wax indignant when their employees ask for an increase of wages. Here is an extract from the first report of a committee of economists appointed by the government to study the purchasing power of money in war time, which shows that wage increases of 5, 10 and even 20 per cent are insignificant when compared with increased living costs.

On the question of living costs, the committee says:

"The living cost and the level of commodity prices in general are now, as we are all aware, extremely high. The average wholesale prices in the United States last month were 81 per cent above that of July, 1914; that is, the purchasing power of money over goods in the wholesale markets has been almost cut in half.

"The rise in retail prices of foods in the same period has been 57 per cent. This means a reduction to less than two-thirds in the purchasing power of money over foods in the retail markets. Abroad the rise of prices has been even greater.

"Between 1896 and 1914 wholesale prices in the United States were rising at the average rate of only one-fifth of 1 per cent per month; but even that small rate, long continued, was enough to make the high cost of living a very painful fact."

These figures show that the workers who

have received such increases are being impoverished. Even regular work and a 20 per cent raise do not bring them up to their former level.

MEAT BARONS CLIMB DOWN.

Washington—With a threatened frontal attack by their employees, and their flank endangered by Uncle Sam as a result of their attempts to block investigations by Congress, the nation's meat barons have adjusted differences with their employees. They agreed to cease union discrimination and refer wage demands to arbitration, the decision to be effective as of January 14. Secretary of Labor Wilson will name the arbitrator.

The settlement includes recognition of committees and seniority in promotions. The question of equal pay for women who are doing men's work is referred to the arbitrator.

Last fall, on returning from the West, the President's mediation commission effected an adjustment of this dispute, or thought it did until the packers kicked over the traces by insisting that arbitration should be of the long-distance variety, through correspondence, with no cross-examinations. The workers refused to accept this letter-writing plan, and asked President Wilson to take over the plants during the war. The unionists pledged the President a full-handed equipment for every packing plant in the country. The President promised to consider this request and referred the wage demands to his mediation commission, which cited the packers to come to this city and present their side.

During the last several months a wave of organization has swept through the packing industry and the meat barons have been forced to set aside old antagonisms. In Chicago, where 40,000 workers are employed, two-thirds of them are members of trade unions.

FARMERS AND UNIONS UNITE.

San Francisco—Organized workers, farmers and co-operators have formed the California union of producers and consumers.

The new organization, expected by its founders to become an economic and political force, consists of the California State Federation of Labor, the Farmers' Educa-

tional and Co-operative Union and the Pacific Co-operative League. Joint action by the three parties is necessary on any question and each organization will remain in full life for its separate purpose, and the united support of the three will be given to the activities of each, in so far as mutual interest and united opinion warrant.

The purpose of the new movement, as stated in the official announcement, is:

"To bring joint action to bear on pressing legislative changes; to further public ownership of all public utilities, including transportation and communication; to free the land and society from privilege and monopoly, and to provide a practical plan of co-operation for the equitable distribution of food and other necessities of life."

MUST RAISE \$800,000.

Indianapolis—Members of the United Mine Workers must raise \$800,000 for bonds to appeal a \$600,000 verdict against them, in an Arkansas federal court. The Coronado Coal company of that state was awarded \$200,000 damages for alleged violation of the anti-trust law. Under this act the company is entitled to three times the amount of the award.

The miners are confronted with two grave legal entanglements—the Coronado and the Hitchman cases.

The first case is based on a violation of the anti-trust law and the Hitchman case rests on the theory that where an employer secures an agreement from his employees that they will not join a union while employed by him, union officials can be enjoined if they attempt to interest the employees in trade unionism. In connection with the Hitchman case the United States supreme court has cited officers of the United Mine Workers to appear before it on March 4 to show cause why they should not be punished for contempt.

INJUNCTION AGAINST AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS

"The Advance," official organ of this union, in its issue of February 8, reports:

"Notice of a temporary injunction was served on General President Sidney Hillman and Secretary Joseph Schlossberg last week in an action begun by Larry Levy, pants manufacturer, of 154 Bleeker street, in an effort to break a strike that has been

conducted against this firm for six weeks. Arguments were made before Supreme Court Justice Bijur Thursday by attorneys for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers for the dissolution of the temporary injunction.

"Levy charges in his application for the injunction that his business is being injured by the strike, and that picketing is keeping workers from his shops in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

"The strike was caused by the refusal of the firm to grant equal distribution of work and because of discrimination against members of the New York Clothing Cutters' Union."

GERMAN WOMEN UNITE IN THE FIGHT FOR BALLOT

The question of Woman Suffrage is beginning to agitate Germany, despite the government's forcible insistence that this and kindred questions must not be made the subject of agitation until after the war.

Three formidable national organizations are now openly campaigning in Germany in behalf of Woman's Suffrage—the Woman's Department of the Social Democratic Party, the German Imperial Union for Woman's Suffrage and the German Women's Suffrage Society. These organizations have just issued a united manifesto in which they say:

"Up to the present Germany stands in the lowest rank of nations as regards women's rights. In most civilized lands women have already been given a large share in public affairs. German women have been granted nothing except within the most significant limits.

"In New Zealand and most American States, and even before the war in Finland and Norway, they had been given political rights: today England, Sweden, Russia and many other countries give them a full or limited franchise. The war has brought a full victory to the women of England, Canada, Russia and Denmark, and large concessions are within sight in France, Holland and Hungary.

"Among us Germans, not only the national but even the communal franchise is denied, or even a share in the industrial and commercial courts. In the demand for the democratization of German public life our legislators do not seem to even admit the existence of women."

General Executive Board in Session

The quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board was held at Hotel Waldorf, Toledo, Ohio, beginning Friday, February 8, and continuing until Wednesday, February 13, 1918. All the vice presidents of the International were present, as well as Secretary Ab. Baroff and President Schlesinger, who presided.

Of late these quarterly meetings have assumed a particular importance. No routine official matters engage the attention of the Board but fundamental questions relating to the life and growth of our local unions. Much time is devoted to an earnest discussion of reports concerning organization work and plans for the future.

A very interesting report was heard regarding the agitation for introducing week work in our industries. It was encouraging to learn that the workers in large numbers are being converted to the idea of week work. Other reports related to various achievements of our International Union in the last three months, which were a source of satisfaction and encouragement to the assembled vice presidents.

Almost in all industries where we have agreements with the employers the International Union succeeded by negotiation in securing increases of wages for our members. Even in industries where the agreements do not expire until 1919 the manufacturers were prevailed upon to grant an increase of wages.

The nation-wide influence and prestige of our International Union has been shown recently in the fact that Dr. Garfield, the Federal Fuel Administrator, granted special exemption for the ladies' garment factories, permitting the use of heat and light on the heatless and lightless Mondays, so as to keep the members of our union in employment. Dr. Garfield granted the exemption upon request of President Schlesinger, who was accompanied by President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, after having been informed of the condition of our members and urgency for the exemption. The fact that the heatless order has now been revoked, makes no difference in the fact of our industry having been thus privileged.

A committee from Local No. 17, Reefer-makers of New York, appeared to explain

and show cause why its charter should not be revoked for deliberately failing to comply with the decision of the General Executive Board, in session at Montreal, in October, 1917. That decision read, in part:

1. All grievances of workers arising in shops controlled by Local No. 17 shall hereafter be taken up for adjustment directly by the Joint Board instead of the office of Local No. 17.

2. The Joint Board shall attend to all grievances of workers of such shops from one office and shall take care that such office be managed and conducted by a manager and business agents fully familiar with the various grades of work made in Local No. 17 shops as well as with the system of work prevailing in such shops.

According to paragraph 4 of that decision "all controversies with respect to the meaning or practical application of the above decision shall be submitted to and passed upon by the General President of the International subject only to an appeal to the convention." President Schlesinger interpreted the decision in the sense that Local No. 17 must abandon its separate office for complaints and move into the Joint Board.

The Local No. 17 committee, consisting of Brothers J. Heller, S. Goldin, D. Nisnevitz, A. Jacobinsky and Stankevitch, asked the General Executive Board to deal leniently with their local. They sought to impress the Board that the decision was unjust to the local, which had committed no offence and therefore had not expected to be thus penalized. They explained that at a well-attended meeting their members had protested against the decision of the General Executive Board.

President Schlesinger pointed out to the committee that the Executive Board of Local No. 17 had not acted loyally toward the International. Being a part of the organization they must respect the decision of its high officers, particularly when, as in this case, the decision was so mild.

After due discussion, and bearing in mind that the Executive Board of Local No. 17, instead of complying with the decision, had called a members' meeting by a press advertisement of an infamatory wording, thus rendering it impossible for the local Executive Board to get the members' approval of the decision of the International, the

General Executive Board decided to give Local No. 17 an extension of time until March 1, 1918, to carry the decision into effect or stand expelled from the International.

Brother A. Ellner, manager of the Private Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 90, called the attention of the Board to the local situation. He stated that if this union is to increase its influence in the industry, and gain improvements for the workers it was necessary to prepare for a general strike. The union, he stated, has approximately 700 members, but the industry employs about 8,000 workers of various nationalities. Many French and American girls are working in the shops and stores, and it would be impossible to organize them systematically without a general strike.

The General Executive Board empowered the General Office to investigate the conditions of the trade, and if practical and feasible, a campaign for a general strike shall be sanctioned.

* * *

Judge Jacob Panken appeared on behalf of the Naturalization Bureau and explained that the bureau was commencing a movement for assisting our eligible workers to become citizens of the United States. He said that never was the urgency for this movement greater than at present; first because the women of New York have been enfranchised, and upon married men securing full citizenship rights it will mean two votes for the labor movement. Secondly it should be remembered that in view of the great progress of the recent Socialist party campaign, the other parties will employ every possible means to obstruct our next campaign. Therefore we ought to prepare for eventualities by increasing the number of our voters. Funds were needed to carry on the work, and Judge Panken asked the General Executive Board to contribute a sum of money for this purpose. Agreed to grant \$200.

* * *

As the convention report has to be prepared, it was decided that President Schlesinger shall visit all the locals of the International for the purpose of ascertaining their present condition and aspirations, to enable the General Executive Board to present a comprehensive report to the convention.

It was reported that the Waistmakers' Union of Philadelphia had bought a Unity house with funds specially collected from shares issued to the members and sympathizers. A large number of its members have invested in this undertaking. The General Executive Board recognizing the importance of this enterprise and desiring to commend this noble example to other locals, decided to purchase 100 shares in the Unity House of Local No. 15.

Vice President J. Halperin; H. Wander; Fannia M. Cohn and Secretary Ab. Baroff were appointed as Convention Arrangements Committee.

Vice President Elmer Rosenberg; Salvatore Ninfo and S. Seidman were appointed a committee to draw up a plan of a weekly paper for our International Union and submit a report to the next meeting of the Board.

AB. BAROFF,
Gen. Secy.-Treasurer.

TABULATION OF VOTE CAST BY LOCALS FOR CONVENTIONS CITY 1918:

Local	Boston	Baltimore	Chicago
1.....	248	146	40
2.....	20	16	5
3.....	3	50	..
4.....	..	250	..
6.....	240	7	2
7.....	135	..	..
9.....	100	400	50
10.....	..	364	..
11.....	5	51	4
12.....	70	..	..
13.....	..	..	83
14.....	..	2	19
15.....	3	..	463
17.....	4	145	14
19.....	30	..	..
20.....	90	8	7
21.....	150	4	10
23.....	6	74	2
24.....	114	..	..
25.....	80	197	39
30.....	..	..	49
32.....	..	..	45
33.....	14	..	1
35.....	57	203	2
41.....	405	12	3
44.....	..	..	146
48.....	35	194	3

49.....	726	1
50.....	232	218
53.....	54	..
54.....	..	..
56.....	271	1
58.....	8	38
61.....	..	..
62.....	..	221
63.....	..	..
64.....	40	1
66.....	117	3
67.....	3	..
68.....	43	5
69.....	18	1
71.....	..	..
72.....	..	18
73.....	22	1
78.....	..	..
80.....	..	35
82.....	232	..
84.....	..	4
92.....	2	..
98.....	..	..
100.....	..	..
101.....	..	28
112.....	13	1
3590		2699
Total		1855
		8044

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

To the Officers and Members of the General Executive Board in Session in Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 9, 1918

We, the undersigned herewith certify that we have audited the expenses of the General officers for the months of October, November and December, and that we have found them duly vouched for and in accordance with law.

M. AMDUR, Chairman.

H. WANDER.

FANNIA M. COHN,

Secretary.

Finance committee of the I. L. G. W. U.

SECRETARY AB. BAROFF'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Immediately after our return from the last meeting of the Board at Montreal, we accepted the recommendation of the Montreal Joint Board to engage Brother Labensohn as its manager, and with Presi-

dent Schlesinger's consent, he accepted office on November 15th.

During the month of November, right after Brother Labensohn was engaged as the Montreal organizer, a serious trouble arose in Montreal. It happened that some of the active union members among the finishers of the shop of M. Rother, one of the biggest in the town, were discriminated against and discharged, and the local Joint Board decided to call a strike in that shop. The operators of the shop, however, lined up with the employer and issued a circular in defiance of the order of the Joint Board. Foreseeing the demoralizing effect of this act of insubordination upon the Montreal organization, we sent Vice-President Halpern to Montreal early in December, for the purpose of adjusting the matter and bring the operators of that shop to their senses. Brother Halpern had spent a few days there and upon his return to New York reported that he had succeeded in convincing the operators of their wrong action; that they felt repentant and appointed a committee to see the employer and ask him to reinstate the finishers; that the employer refused to grant their demand and accused the operators of having acted in bad faith with him, as it was he who had given them the money to print circulars against the Joint Board; that he offered them individual agreements, by which they would bind themselves not to go down on strike while the agreement lasted, and they rejected these proposals. After Brother Halpern had left, we were informed that a strike was called in that shop by the operators.

* * *

The situation in the New York Cloak Operators' Union, Local No. 1, was not quite clear when we came from Montreal. The registration of the operators in the reorganized local was very slow, and there were a number of so-called "peace-seekers" who were hampering the work of the local elements of the union. During the last three months, however, the entire situation has cleared up excellently. Up to date about 6,000 cloakmakers have registered in the International local, which has moved into new headquarters. Recently local elections took place, and a new executive board and other officers were elected. A large vote was recorded despite the fact that the voting took place during the five

heatless days of last month. Vice Presidents Amdur, Lefkovits and myself acted in the committee which had examined the candidates for office and we had also assigned watchers at the ballot boxes. The newly elected officers of Local No. 1 were installed by President Schlesinger, and quite recently the event of the reorganization of the local was celebrated by Local No. 1, in conjunction with the International, at a banquet which was arranged on February 2nd at Beethoven Hall, and at which all the active workers of the New York unions and representatives of the International Union were present.

* * *

During January our New York locals had their regular annual elections for officers for the year 1918, and I installed practically all of them. On all of these occasions I found with a sense of deep gratification that our locals are intensely loyal and true to our International Union. The meeting of the Joint Board of New York, where the installation of delegates for the next year took place in January, was another source of satisfaction to me. The poisonous atmosphere which has been in the air there for years, created and spread by the treacherous and disloyal element, has vanished, and all the delegates showed determination to uphold harmony and unity in our ranks. We have, indeed, enough cause to congratulate ourselves upon the progress we have made during the last six months.

I also attended mass meetings of Locals No. 9 and No. 23, at which the conditions of the trade were discussed and remedies for the existing evils were sought. The idea of week work in the entire industry is getting strong support and increasing approval from our workers.

* * *

We have made arrangements at Baltimore to engage a man and a woman organizer in addition to Miss Anna Neary who has been working for the ladies' garment workers of Baltimore for a considerable time, as organizer for the American Federation of Labor. The arrangements were completed by President Schlesinger and took effect on January 3, 1918. Reports so far indicate that the new staff of organizers in Baltimore has undertaken a wide campaign to unionize the workers.

At the request of the Joint Board of Boston the General Office has agreed to contribute to the expenses of Brother Hyman Hurwitz, who was recently elected as their manager. He is an able young man, and his services can be utilized for organizing work in Worcester and other points around Boston. This arrangement has been in effect since December 27th, 1917.

* * *

As you already know, Vice-President Seidman was induced to come to New York to take up the position as Chief Clerk in the Waistmakers' Union, Local No. 25, and he may briefly report on the conditions in which he found the local.

I attended conferences between the Waistmakers' Union and the Waist and Dress Manufacturers' Association at which various demands were discussed. The employers had at first flatly refused to grant the demands, and the controversy was to go to the Board of Arbitration. However, President Schlesinger, together with Brothers Seidman and Lieberman, succeeded, after a number of conferences with the employers, in gaining increases of wages for the workers. Later some of the members of the Executive Board of Local No. 25 and some shop chairmen protested against the action of the conference committee for not acting in this matter in strict accord with democracy. But after two meetings with the Executive Board and also with the shop chairmen, at which President Schlesinger and I have been present, we succeeded in convincing them of the importance of these gains and of the increases.

* * *

I attended a meeting of Local No. 90, the Private Dressmakers, who have succeeded in building up a compact little local, but they are not satisfied because of the fact that their trade is a large one and is not yet thoroughly organized. They are anxious that the International give them a helping hand in organizing the workers all over the city.

* * *

The Children's Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 50, has been progressing pretty well, but lately a trouble of a personal nature has occurred, based, to my mind, on a feeling of petty jealousy. One of the office clerks, a member of the union, was guilty of

discourtesy to the manager of the local and he brought charges against her before the Executive Board of the local. The Executive Board decided that the young lady in question was to apologize for the insult, which she refused to do and sent in her resignation. The case would have ended right there but for one of the paid officers who wanted to get even with the manager. He organized some of the business agents of the local against the manager and started a turmoil, demanding that the Executive Board of Local No. 50 reconsider its decision.

A special meeting of the Executive Board and of the officers was called, at which President Schlesinger and myself were present. We went through the entire case, and President Schlesinger upheld the decision of the local Executive Board. Again it was thought that this would settle the controversy, but the forces that were working against the manager of Local No. 50 would not rest. An agitation was started among the chairladies of the local against the Executive Board. At a meeting of the Executive Board, at which I was present, a committee of the chairladies appeared with an ultimatum that if this girl were not reinstated they would refuse to act as chairladies in the shops. I tried to explain to them the injustice of their demand and made clear to them the duties and the responsibilities of the Executive Board of their union. Later I attended one of their members' meetings, where I learned that the members at large were loyal and faithful to their organization, and only a small group was acting in an irresponsible manner.

Vice-President Lefkovits was assigned by President Schlesinger to stay with Local No. 50 for a while, in order to settle this trouble.

* * *

Local No. 20, our Raincoat Makers' Union of New York, is at present in a very good financial condition. Formerly they were always suffering from inability to make ends meet, and very often had to appeal to the International for financial assistance. They now have in their treasury over \$10,000, and the trade is in a prosperous condition.

* * *

Local No. 62, White Goods Workers' Union of New York, some time ago re-

quested conferences with the employers' association of their trade, for the purpose of discussing an increase of wages for their workers to meet the extra cost of living. The manufacturers flatly refused these demands, and the local is preparing for aggressive steps in connection with this problem. (While the meeting was being held, at which this report was read, the manufacturers receded from their position and concede a satisfactory increase of wages. Ed.)

* * *

Local No. 6, the Embroidery Workers' Union of New York, made a similar request and received a similar answer from their manufacturers, and as a result they are likewise preparing to compel the employers, through strikes, to grant them their just demands.

* * *

On December 11th a special joint meeting of the executive boards of all our locals in New York City was held at 7 East 15th Street, the People's House, to devise plans of raising a large sum of money for the Jewish War Sufferers in Europe. At this meeting, which was attended by Louis Marshall and Jacob H. Schiff, it was decided after deliberation that Washington's Birthday be assigned as the day when all our workers will turn over their earnings as a donation to the fund for the Jewish War Sufferers. Plans have been mapped out, offices opened, and a campaign has been started to make this movement successful on a large scale. President Schlesinger is chairman of the committee, Phillip Kaplowitz is manager, Max D. Danish is secretary and I am the treasurer. The Relief Committee was appointed by President Schlesinger and consists of the following representatives of the different locals: Brothers Saul Metz, Jacob Halperin, Fania M. Cohn, Louis Langer, Bernat Fenster, Manny Weiss, Nathan M. Minkow, Isadore Epstein, Morris Brass, Jacob Heller, Philip Berman, Max Bruck, Meyer Weinstein, Sol Seidman, Abraham E. Kazan, Henry Zucker, Harry Greenberg, Morris Uran, Samuel Shore, Max Luboff, Samuel Lefkovits, Isidore Graff and Abraham Ellner. It has an Executive Committee which is composed of: Benj. Schlesinger, Abraham Baroff, Morris Sigman, Harry Wandor, Sol Seidman, Ossip Walinsky, Phillip Kaplowitz and Max D. Danish.

The initiation stamp reform, which was decided upon by the General Executive Board, went into effect on February 1st, 1918. After a meeting with all the secretaries of the large locals in New York City, we decided on a special card on which these stamps are to be pasted and which are to be the property of the applicants and serve as a receipt for the installment payments. We decided to charge one-half of one per cent. of the gross value of the stamps. In brief, the reasons for adopting the initiation stamp are as follows: (1) to be able to control the initiation income of the locals and (2) to impress more strongly upon the members of our local unions the fact of their being initiated as members of the International Union.

* * *

I feel it my duty to report to you about our educational undertaking. The cost of the educational department to date amounts to \$2,000, and now our weekly expenses are from \$150 to \$200 per week. I was at the opening of the International courses at the Washington Irving High School, also at Public School No. 62, on the East Side. These were quite successful affairs. I am not in a position, however, to state how far we have met with success in the conduct of the courses. I know it is a very hard and slow process and I also know that Vice-President Fannia Cohn has been working very hard ever since she was engaged by the Educational Committee to promote this work. She is constantly busy organizing the committees in the locals, keeping in touch with the students and trying her best to interest the locals in the importance of the work. I also wish to say that the entire burden has so far been left by the Educational Committee which was appointed by President Schlesinger, on the shoulders of the paid officers, and Brother E. Lieberman, the chairman of the committee. The vice-presidents and the other members of the Educational Committee as a whole, have interested themselves very little with the work of this department. My opinion is that President Schlesinger might have a meeting with this Committee, and if he is satisfied that the members of the Educational Committee do not attend to their duties, it would be advisable to appoint others instead.

AB. BAROFF,

Gen. Secy.-Treas.

REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

To the General Executive Board, Toledo, Ohio.

At your last Quarterly Meeting, held in October, we submitted a report, setting forth a plan for our educational activities. In this report we shall review in brief the work which has been accomplished so far.

The opening celebration of the International center was held in the auditorium of the Washington Irving High School on December 1st, 1917. Every local of our International Union in New York City was represented. The spirit of the members, and, in fact, of all present, was a very admirable one. All felt that this new activity of our International commands the highest respect of the members and deserves serious attention.

Soon after the opening, registration for the various courses began. At this present time the following courses are being given at the International center:

Fridays—History of Group Control by Dr. Alexander Goldenweiser, of Columbia University.

Saturdays—Social Interpretation of Literature by Dr. Louis Friedland, of City College.

Saturdays—Development of Internationalism by Senator LaFontaine.

Sundays—Public Speaking by Dr. Gustave Shultz.

Sundays—Trade Unionism by Miss Juliet Stuart Poyntz.

The courses are being satisfactorily attended, the average attendance being about 200. Most of the students take more than one course. We believe that these courses will greatly benefit our members, and through them, our various organizations.

The conditions in our country, especially the coal situation, has greatly hindered our original plans. We have been unable to proceed with the opening of the local centers, as we intended to do. Some of the schools were temporarily closed and no permits were given for the use of schools on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. We were even obliged to secure other headquarters for our International center, and at this present time the courses of the International center are being given in the Public Library at 328 East 23rd Street. We were very fortunate in securing the use of

this building. However, our committee was determined to carry on the work in spite of all obstacles. Accordingly, we have already opened a down-town center in Public School No. 62, the opening celebration of which was held on Friday, February 1st, 1918. The courses in this center will be given mainly in Jewish, and are as follows:

Mondays—Literature and Public Speaking by B. Vladeck.

Tuesdays will be devoted to instruction in health. A lecture on some important health topic will be given under the supervision of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control. Gymnasium practice will be given by Miss Lucy M. Retting physical director.

Wednesdays—Civics by H. Rogoff.

Thursdays—Elementary Economics by Dr. Frank P. Rosenblatt.

Besides, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, classes in English, elementary and advanced, will be conducted. The Board of Education has promised to provide teachers for the English classes.

Due to the coal situation, we have postponed the opening of a center in Brownsville, but the demand for such a center is so great that we feel it cannot be postponed any longer. More than 250 members have registered for courses and they insist that they be given the same opportunity as the members in New York. We are therefore making arrangements now to open a center there in Public School No. 84, Glenmore and Stone Avenues, where a similar schedule to the downtown center will be given.

As you see, no efforts have been spared in extending our educational activities. We realize that all these activities may be a financial burden on our International, and we therefore called a conference of the Educational Committees of our locals, to devise some means by which the burden upon the treasury of our International shall be diminished. The conference decided to recommend to the locals to appropriate 5c per member for this season of our activities. That, we figured, after making the necessary deductions, would give us more than \$2,000.00 to carry on the work. Having the necessary funds, we intended to extend our work to other cities, especially Philadelphia and Boston. In fact, they requested our chairman to visit their cities and to assist them in working out a feasible plan for educational activities. However,

President Schlesinger was utterly opposed to raising any money through the locals for this purpose at the present time, and also to inaugurating similar work in other cities. Nothing was left for us, therefore, but to continue our work in its present form.

Beginning Monday, February 11th, Professor Charles A. Beard will begin a course on the Economic History of the United States, at the Washington Irving High School. It is needless for us to dwell upon the tremendous importance of such a course, given by such an eminent authority. We feel greatly gratified in having secured the valuable assistance of Professor Beard. His connection with us will greatly strengthen our work and add prestige to our Workers' University. At the same time we will also start a course in practical problems of trade unionism. Various lectures will be given on this topic, by such prominent lecturers as Morris Hillquit, Robert Bruere, John Fitch and Dr. N. I. Stone. This course will begin on Friday, February 15th, with a lecture by Morris Hillquit on collective bargaining in the garment trades.

We feel that our agitation for educational work has borne fruit. The spirit among our members and the desire for such activities has been greatly stimulated. The possibilities of this work are great. We have probably made mistakes, but we are certain that we are on the right path. We sincerely hope that this work will be encouraged by the active cooperation of the General Executive Board.

Trusting that this will meet with your approval, I am

Respectfully,

ELIAS LIEBERMAN,
Chairman.

80 LOCALS ORGANIZED

Lafayette, Ind.—Officers of the Retail Clerks' International Protective association report that 80 charters have been issued during the past 12 months.

Large sums of money have been expended in benefits, it is stated, and these have not been confined to sick and funeral benefits alone, but a goodly sum has been appropriated for strike benefits and other relief.

Local News and Events

(In this department, which is a regular feature of this journal every month, local life and movement is being reported for the information of our members and readers.)

Compiled by M. D. DANISH

NEW YORK CLOAK OPERATORS' UNION, LOCAL NO. 1

Brother Wm. Bloom, Secretary, reports:—
 "The new office of Local No. 1 is a beehive of activity. We already feel at home in our new headquarters. Over 6,500 cloak operators are paying regular dues on our books, and these are members in the full sense of the word. They have learned from bitter experience of the painful results disorganization and demagoguery bring in their wake, and they have resolved not to be misled by unscrupulous and irresponsible men in the future. The effects of the trouble that occurred in the Cloak Operators' Union during the past year will serve as a great object lesson to the Jewish labor movement in general. The spirit of irresponsible demagoguery has met its deserved rebuke. Our International Union struck a blow at the enemies of organized labor who were parading as its friends in an ultra-revolutionary mask for mean and selfish purposes.

"The great question that is agitating the mass of the cloak operators today is the week work system which is now being discussed everywhere as the next big step in the improvement of the working conditions of our men and women. In fact, about one hundred shops have already adopted the week work system instead of piece work and results are quite satisfactory from the reports that have reached our office. The referendum vote on the week work system will soon be submitted by the Joint Board to the cloak shops, and it appears, from all signs, that a big majority will be recorded for the introduction of this great reform in the lives of the cloakmakers in New York City. The International convention will, no doubt, endorse this movement and will make week work a standard in the entire cloak industry of the country."

PHILADELPHIA CLOAKMAKERS' LOCALS NOS. 2, 53, 69

Brother A. Neubauer, recording secretary of Local No. 2, writes as follows:—

"The spring season is in full bloom in Philadelphia just now and our cloakmakers say that they can hardly recall such a busy spring season. It may be due, to a certain extent, to the fact that there are fewer cloakmakers today in Philadelphia than ever. A number of them are working on army uniforms, and then again, it may be true that our employers have very large orders this spring. At any rate, the shops are very busy and in some factories there is a scarcity of workers. In spite of that, we have complaints that in many factories the people are not making a living and the prices are far from desirable. This is due mainly to the fact that when work first appeared in the shops, some volunteer price committees began settling prices on the garments, being very eager to get started on the work. It would have been much better for themselves and the workers in their shops if these self-appointed committees had waited a couple of weeks before settling prices. As it is, they have no one but themselves to blame, because it is very hard to rectify these mistakes at present.

"In other shops where the price committees acted with less haste and in accordance with the instructions from our office, things are much better, and the workers make from \$50 to \$60 a week. But these shops are exceptions; the ordinary wages range from \$20 to \$30 a week. In some shops we have succeeded in making re-settlements, but even these do not make up for the losses, because the seasons are short and the cost of living is mounting higher from day to day.

"At the last meeting of our local the conditions of our trade were very ear-

nestly discussed. At this meeting some of the oldest cloakmakers in our city were present, and men who have been for tens of years in cloak shops agreed that the only solution for the evils of the cloak trade is the adoption of week work. It was decided to recommend to the Joint Board to take up the discussion of week work with all our branches and to arrange for one general mass meeting, at which this matter should be decided once for all. It is yet hard to say what most of the workers think of week work, but on the surface it appears that the majority of our members here in Philadelphia are inclined to adopt this system."

* * *

BALTIMORE CLOAKMAKERS' UNION

Brother A. D. Glushakow, recording secretary of Local No. 4, writes:

"The idea of forming a Joint Board of the International locals of Baltimore—Locals Nos. 4, 72, 101 and 110, which was put into effect several months ago, appears to have been the most desirable thing for our Baltimore organization. Full credit for the success of the venture must be given to our International President, Brother Schlesinger, who, during his last visit to Baltimore, inspired the local workers to give their full support to the Joint Board and to conduct the organization work in a much improved manner.

"Local No. 4 is doing all within its power to help organize the other three locals. Only recently a decision was adopted by this local to the effect that each shop chairman in the cloak shops be instructed to demand that the cutters of the shop must belong to the Cutters' Union, Local No. 110, and that in case they refuse to join this organization, the cloakmakers are to refrain from working with them. The results of this decision have already proved to be excellent, and the cutters' local has been growing ever since.

"The Ladies' Tailors, Local, No. 101, has been making good strides lately, with the assistance of our able organizer, Brother D. Cohen, and at present they are doing work on a real solid basis. The tailors are settling prices in their shops through their own shop committees, and conditions are quite satisfactory.

"Things are different, however, in the organization of the waist and white goods

workers. Our organizers are spending a good deal of energy and time in organizing the women workers, who are largely Gentile, but these are coming into the organization at a very slow pace. Personally, I am inclined to think that the road in these trades will be a hard one to travel.

"We had elections here on February 9th, and Brother A. Ratkowitz was re-elected for the third time as business agent of Local No. 4, and as assistant organizer of all the other locals. We raised his salary owing to the present high cost of living.

"It was decided to tax every member of Local No. 4 ten per cent. on the week's wages for the week of February 22nd, for the War Relief Fund, and we have appealed to the brothers and sisters of our local organization to keep their promises and to donate freely and of their own accord. We hope that the feeling of sympathy toward our stricken brothers' and sisters in Europe will materialize in a substantial sum of money and will relieve some broken down lives and hearts to some degree."

* * *

BOSTON CLOAKMAKERS' UNION LOCALS 12, 24, 56, 73

Brother H. Hurwitz, manager of the Boston Joint Board, writes:

"The spring season is here, and during the last few weeks its influence has been felt in all the shops. From all signs the season will be a pretty good one. The manufacturers admit that in spite of the fact that the price of materials is higher than before, they have received larger orders than they did for the last spring season. The shops are being filled up with workers who are leaving their temporary occupations and coming back to work at their trades.

"The Joint Board decided at its last meeting to make Saturday, the 16th of March, the relief day for our unfortunate sisters and brothers across the seas. We are making all arrangements to render this day a great success. We chose the 16th of March because we expect the season to be at its height at that time, and our workers will therefore be in a better position to contribute part of their earnings.

"The news that President Schlesinger was instrumental in obtaining exemption for the garment trades from the late Monday closing order, has created a great sensa-

tion in Boston. The manufacturers, on the one hand, and the workers on the other, are beginning to realize that our organization wields a tremendous moral force in the economic life of our country.

"The news that Boston has been selected by the members of the International in the just closed referendum vote, as the next convention city, has filled the hearts of our workers with joy. We eagerly expect the arrangements committee of the International to come to Boston to make preparations for the convention, and we shall endeavor to help them in every possible way to make this convention a memorable one in the history of the International Union."

* * *

CHICAGO CLOAKMAKERS' UNION LOCALS 18, 44, 81

Vice-President Schoolman writes:—

"The most interesting occurrence of the past month is undoubtedly the beginning of the spring season. Indeed, all of us are glad that the slack period is over. It brought a good deal of privation to our members, as all slack seasons do, and the conditions were aggravated during the last few months on account of the general bad times that prevailed in our city.

"We are not as yet in a position to say whether this season will meet with our expectations. We are assured, however, that there will be enough work in the shops. But these assurances have come to us in the beginning of every season, and these cheerful reports usually come from the employers and the trade. I wonder if they are not really inspired by the ulterior motive of making our people believe that in view of the fact that there will be so much work to do, the workers might make the garments at lower prices?

A Home of Our Own

"A home owned by our own Union; a little corner for ourselves; a place that we can point out as belonging cooperatively to our organization, is the present cry of a large number of our members. The very fact that our workers are thinking of an enterprise of this kind is cheerful news to all of us. The days when the Chicago cloakmakers thought of nothing else but of his own machine and bundle are apparently passing away and a spirit of unity is taking its place.

Strike Fund

"Our Strike Fund has during the past year increased considerably and we now have about \$6,000 in that Fund. We have no reason to doubt that the coming year will swell this Fund up to \$10,000, a sum which we set as our goal at the time of its inauguration. Of course, we are not quite as naive as to think that we can successfully conduct a general strike with such a small sum, but we are certain that we could handle a single or a group strike with our own means.

Sick Benefit Fund

"Our Sick Fund is in very good shape. Of course, it is not pleasant to report that we had 211 sick cases last year and that these received about \$3,000 support from the Fund; but it is better that we have a fund to take care of these sick members than to leave them in their misery without any support whatever. The Sick Fund has on hand now \$4,623.01, and we hope that we may not have to use much of it for the coming year. Five members of our organization died within the last year and their families received death benefit.

The Button System

"Owing to the strict supervision of the shops through the button system, our members are in pretty good standing all the time. The last slack period, however, made some inroads into the credit side of our ledger. Some members have fallen into arrears and they come to the office to complain that they are being interfered with now in their work, as they have not an up-to-date button. Others did not receive their sick benefits on account of that, and still others could not get loans from the union for the same reason. We have strict and fast rules, however, in this particular matter, and the union insists first and last that dues must be paid under all circumstances. It involves the very existence of the organization. We have proposed to our members to start a campaign in each shop among the delinquent members to pay up their arrears during the busy season. Both these men and the union will profit by this, and the shop chairmen are depended upon to do their duties in this respect.

Our Savings Department

"When we first established our Savings Department in our union we never sus-

pected how many cloakmakers had savings accounts in the local banks. We have discovered a considerable number of them, but we had our misgivings at the beginning as to whether these people would bring their money into the savings department of the union. We had in mind a number of cloakmakers who save only from season to season and eat up their little savings during the slack period. This type of cloakmaker very seldom visits the savings bank, and his money, which usually consists of \$100 or less, is kept by him or his wife within the confines of the house. For this type of cloakmaker we really started our savings department. The Union gives the depositor full guarantee for his money and keeps it for him in a national bank, paying two per cent. interest on it. We expect that the convenience of depositing and the unusual accommodations that the union offers the members for withdrawing the money, will attract a great many members to this institution and will eventually redound to the benefit of our members."

* * *

ST. LOUIS CLOAKMAKERS' UNION, LOCAL NO. 78

Brother Ben Gilbert, reports:

"I wrote you in my last report that we expected President Schlesinger in our city. As he came for one day only, we could not get the cloakmakers together for a general meeting, but we had a meeting of the Executive Board and discussed the demands that we were to present to the employers. Brother Schlesinger, advised us not to make general demands to all the manufacturers and suggested that we tackle individual shops. Another matter which we agreed upon was a raise of wages in all the shops, and this matter was also to be taken up in groups of shops at a time.

"We at once tackled this proposition and sent out letters to three firms, asking for an increase of 20 per cent. for piece workers, and for week workers—\$2.00 for men and \$1.00 for women. After a few days' negotiations, we won an increase of 12½ per cent. for piece workers, the above mentioned raises for the week workers and the full recognition of the union. In this way we went successfully from shop to shop. We had a strike in only one shop, that of Greenberg & Rupp, which is considered

the best cloak house in the city. This shop was a strictly anti-union house until now, and we had a strike for a week until we succeeded in getting a full union agreement, and we unionized the shop completely. I am confident that before the month is over all the cloakmakers in this city will have gained the increase.

* * *

MONTREAL CLOAKMAKERS' UNION

Brother S. Labensohn, manager of the Montreal Joint Board, writes:

"The season is now in full swing here. There is plenty of work in the shops and our people are working excessive overtime. Our cloakmakers will not understand that long hours of overtime will not lengthen their season. The seasons in the cloak trade would surely start four or five weeks earlier than usual if our employers knew that the workers would refuse to work from twenty to thirty hours overtime weekly. The Montreal cloakmakers, however, are shortsighted and do not understand their interests.

"The appeal of the General Office to all the locals to participate in the relief movement for the war sufferers, found a strong echo in Montreal. At a general members' meeting the question was discussed and our members, realizing the importance of this undertaking, decided to contribute part of their earnings for this desirable purpose.

"The organization work in our city is going along comparatively slowly. In the past we used to be able to organize all the workers in the trade in a period of a few weeks. At present, however, we have adopted different methods, and we are going to organize the local people on a more solid basis. In past years we were anxious to take in members at \$1.00 per head just for the sake of giving them books, and it was an easy matter, therefore, to enroll them. In this manner we used to deceive ourselves with the thought that we already had a solid union in Montreal. But after the first flush of excitement was over, the members and the union drifted away, and it was necessary to start the thing all anew. At present, however, a man must pay dues in order to be regarded as a union member, and a new member must pay his full initiation fee before he is admitted.

(Continued on next page.)

The Apple

(Told by a Shop Girl)

From the Yiddish of Abraham Reisen by A. R.

The shop where I worked was one of the many shops to be found downtown. The longest hours and the smallest wages prevailed there. The long hours, however, were not so oppressive and difficult to bear as the gross insults to which the forty or so Jewish girls were subjected by the employer and particularly by his foreman, who excelled the employer in coarseness, impudence and cynical insinuations.

Agitators, both men and women, repeatedly attempted to organize the women workers of such shops, but their efforts met with scant success. Jaded and physically exhausted from overwork, our wills to fight against our oppressors were blunted and our spirit of resistance was enfeebled. What was especially lacking in us was the hope and faith that anyone could really

help us. Excepting a few girls who possessed stronger faith and more energy, none of us ever went to the meeting called by the union. Thus the slavery in our shop grew and bore us down with its weight; and the more the slavish yoke fastened itself around our necks the less able we felt to shake it off.

This continued for many weary months and even years. . . . It was three years since I had been working there. Yet there was no possibility even for me to leave the shop. There were not many shops in this trade, which manufactured a specific kind of work, a certain line of sweaters.

And who knows how long this system of bondage would have continued in the shop if not for an accident with an apple. It was this that set us free

SAN FRANCISCO CLOAKMAKERS, LOCAL NO. 8

Brother August Kruger, secretary, writes:

"We have a strike on hand here for a cause that may appear peculiar to you. We work by the week in San Francisco, and we like the system pretty well. In fact, until recently, none of the local firms ever attempted to introduce the piece work system in the shops. Lately, however, two firms attempted to start piece work, and the cloakmakers showed a determined front to oppose this, system, which they regard as injurious to their interests. Things went so far that we decided to strike in any shop that might attempt to force the issue on this question. Just now the workers of the Unique Cloak & Suit Company of this city are on strike against the piece work system. We are certain of winning this strike and we expect it to be an effectual lesson to the local manufacturers, and that their dream of piece work will be abandoned forever.

NEW OFFICERS IN LOCAL NO. 34

The Bridgeport Corset Cutters' Union, Local 34, has elected following officers:

President—Harry Hanson.

Vice-President—Irrving C. Taylor.

Financial Secretary—George Squinobal.

Recording Secretary—Joseph Kubik.

Treasurer—William S. Hoffman.

Guide—Thomas Wilkes.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Clifford Twiss.

Auditor—Patrick Fitzpatrick.

Executive Board—Levi Blein, Hugh Flood and Thomas Daley.

THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

Official Organ of the
International Ladies' Garment Workers'
Union

Published Monthly

Address all communication to
Ladies' Garment Worker, 31 Union Square,
New York City

Telephone: Stuyvesant 1126-1127

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

5 Cents per Copy 50 Cents per Year

Entered as second-class matter at the
New York Post Office.

GENERAL OFFICERS

Benjamin Schlesinger - - - President
Ab. Baroff - - - General Sec'y-Treas.

from the insults of the boss and the foreman, reduced our hours of labor, increased our wages and taught us to stand up for our human rights and rights as women. It taught us to rise like one man against wrong and abuse committed against us.

One day there came to work in our shop a young girl, whose appearance was almost that of a child. . . . During the first few days she cast furtive, pitiful glances around her, as if in quest of someone to help and protect her. She impressed us as one who had been affectionately fondled, in fact, as all young girls to whom work in a shop is a new, unpleasant experience. From time to time she opened her white bag which was suspended from her neck as is the habit with oriental shepherdesses, took out a small slice of buttered bread, and eating it rapidly, stealthily, to conceal the fact from the boss and foreman. She evidently enjoyed a good appetite. It was also possible that she thereby sought relief from the weary monotony of the work.

Once she drew out from her bag a beautiful red apple and bit into it with her small, white teeth. The juice moistened her fresh, red lips which looked like two roses sparkling with the early morning dew. . . . She seemed to have been absent-minded at the time, forgetting that she was in the shop, for her hand holding the apple was slightly stretched out. Now the boss suddenly appeared, and seeing her thus with the apple in her hand he grew furious with rage. This chit, he thought, did not seem to feel that she was in his shop, but as if at home with her parents. He came up to her with his accustomed stare out of his bulging gray eyes and burst out:

"Where d'ye think you are, hey?"

The young soul lost herself, and instead of answering his question, not knowing what to answer, she naively smiled to him.

The boss was boiling over with indignation. Did she mean to annoy him, then? He snatched the apple from her hand and flung it into the basket that stood some distance away.

The girl burst into tears, crying piteously: "My apple, my apple!"

All the girl workers of the shop were deeply stirred at this scene. It seemed to them that she was not weeping for the loss of the apple, but for the loss of the fresh bloom of her youth of which the boss robbed her by his arbitrary harsh act.

And then we did not need any agitators, leaflets or proclamations. The fresh rosy apple so malignantly torn from the young girl's hand, and her piteous sobs, aroused an overpowering feeling of protest in our hearts and awakened the light of reason in our dulled, torpid minds.

Upon leaving the factory after work we decided to come to the shop the next day each one with an apple, and that at a given signal by one of us all should bite into their apples at the same time.

And alone the effect of this decision made everyone feel as if freed from a heavy yoke. We felt sure of victory.

Two o'clock the next day I gave the signal. Every one of us put aside our work. Forty girls all reached for their red apples from their bags, and, as if at the behest of an invisible commander, everyone bit into her apple.

Apple juice ran on every lip, but inwardly all hearts derived force and will-power from the daring act.

The boss and foreman stood as if petrified, and in the first few moments they were so bewildered as to seem unable to move a limb. Soon, however, the foreman recovered and then the boss.

"What is this?" they demanded.

"Apple! apples! apples!" all exclaimed with one voice. It was the voice of triumph reverberating throughout the shop.

The victory was ours.

Now this shop is one of the freest in the downtown district. We are not only free to eat apples, but to sing songs, and the work is now easier. Having tasted with the apple the sweet sense of freedom, we ceased to be slaves.

We bless the soul of that young child who was first to eat the apple and open our eyes.

Directory of Local Unions

(Continued)

LOCAL UNION	OFFICE ADDRESS
40. New Haven Corset Workers.....	393 Columbus Ave., New Haven, Conn.
41. New York Wrapper and Kimono Makers.....	22 W. 17th St., New York City
42. Cleveland Cloak and Suit Cutters' Union.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
43. Worcester White Goods and Waist Workers.....	126 Green St., Worcester, Mass.
44. Chicago, Ill., Cloakmakers.....	1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.
45. Syracuse, N. Y., Dressmakers.....	2913 Almond St., Syracuse, N. Y.
46. Petticoat Workers' Union.....	22 W. 17th St., New York City
47. Denver, Colo., Ladies' Tailors.....	244 Champe St., Denver, Colo.
48. Italian Cloak, Suit and Skirt Makers' Union.....	231 E. 14th St., New York City
49. Boston Waistmakers.....	724 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
50. New York Children's Dressmakers.....	22 W. 17th St., New York City
51. Montreal, Canada, Custom Ladies' Tailors.....	387 City Hall Ave., Montreal, Can.
52. Los Angeles Ladies' Garment Workers.....	218 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
53. Philadelphia, Pa., Cloak Cutters.....	244 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
54. Chicago Raincoat Makers.....	409 S. Halstead St., Chicago, Ill.
56. Boston Cloakmakers.....	751 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
57. Cleveland Waist and Dressmakers.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
58. New York Waist Buttonhole Makers.....	80 E. 10th St., New York City
59. New Rochelle Ladies' Tailors.....	106 Union Ave., New Rochelle, N. Y.
60. Phila. Embroidery Workers.....	2126 N. 7th St., Phila., Pa.
61. Montreal, Canada, Cloak and Skirt Pressers.....	37 Prince Arthur E., Montreal, Can.
62. New York White Goods Workers.....	35 Second St., New York City
63. Cincinnati Cloakmakers.....	411 Elm St., Cincinnati, Ohio
64. New York Buttonhole Makers.....	112 W. 21st St., New York City
65. St. Louis Skirt, Waist & Dressmakers' Union.....	Fraternal Building, St. Louis, Mo.
66. New York Bonnaz Embroiderers.....	103 E. 11th St., New York City
67. Toledo Cloakmakers.....	813 George St., Toledo, Ohio
68. Hartford Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.....	16 Loomis St., Hartford, Conn.
69. Philadelphia Cloak Finishers.....	244 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
70. Toronto Skirt and Dressmakers.....	194 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada
71. Chicago Ladies' Tailors.....	951 N. Hoyne Ave., Chicago, Ill.
72. Baltimore Dress and White Goods Workers.....	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
73. Boston Amalgamated Cutters.....	751 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
74. Vineland Cloakmakers' Union.....	H. Miller, 601 Landis Avenue
75. Worcester, Mass., Cloakmakers.....	26 Columbia St., Worcester, Mass.
76. Philadelphia Ladies' Tailors.....	505 Reed St., Philadelphia, Pa.
77. Waterbury Ladies' Garment Workers.....	54 Burton St., Waterbury, Conn.
78. St. Louis Cloak Operators.....	Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
80. Ladies' Tailors, Alteration and Special Order Workers.....	725 Lexington av., N. Y. C.
81. Chicago Cloak and Suit Cutters.....	909 N. Homan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
82. N. Y. Cloak Examiners, Squares & Bushelers' Union.....	228 Second av., N. Y. C.
83. Toronto, Canada, Cutters.....	110 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
84. Toledo Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union.....	425 Parker Ave., Toledo, Ohio
85. Cincinnati Skirtmakers.....	411 Elm St., Cincinnati, Ohio
86. St. John Ladies' Gar. Workers' Union.....	92 St. James St., St. John, N. B., Can.
90. Custom Dressmakers' Union.....	Forward B'ldg., 175 E. B'way, N. Y. City
92. Toronto, Canada, Cloak Pressers.....	110 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
98. Cincinnati Skirt Pressers' Union.....	411 Elm St., Cincinnati, Ohio
100. Chicago Waist, Dress and White Goods Workers.....	1815 W. Division St., Chi., Ill.
101. Baltimore Ladies' Tailors.....	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
102. Montreal, Canada, Raincoat Makers.....	1138 Clarke St., Montreal, Canada
105. St. Louis Ladies' Tailors.....	Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
110. Baltimore Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union.....	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
111. Cleveland Raincoat Makers.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
112. Montreal, Canada, Ladies' Waist Makers.....	1271 Clarke St., Montreal, Canada

Read The *Ladies' Garment Worker*

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL
LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

A Magazine for Every Ladies' Garment Worker

The Ladies' Garment Worker

contains editorials on the most important Problems in the Ladies'
Garment Industry and the labor movement in general

Monthly Reports of the Activities of the Different Local Unions
of the I. L. G. W. U. throughout the Country.

Subscribe to The Ladies' Garment Worker and
get a copy sent to your home. You may sub-
scribe or buy a single copy in the office of your
union, or in the office of the International.

31 UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK

ONE YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION 50c.

SINGLE COPY 5c.